



# School for POLITICS and CRITIQUE 2015

The "INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES - SKOPJE" is a research institution accredited as scientific by the Ministry of Education and Science of Macedonia (decision nr. 30). It is registered as a non-profit organization. The Institute is committed to a scientifically rigorous and policy studies oriented analysis of the complexities of the political processes in the country and its European context. Instead of sheer and detached academism, we are committing ourselves to research which addresses the everyday reality in terms that correspond with it rather than impose – like the "Procrustes bed" – abstract categories upon the reality we experience. Complexities at stake consist in the fact that the field of the political is made of the interaction and intertwining of several levels of the societal reality: the cultural, economic, social, gender relations (or ideologies of patriarchy) communication and media.

Thus interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary are the approach that predominantly marks the scientific production of the Institute, serving as the basis for the creation of nuanced and context specific policy solutions addressing the particularities of the reality in question. The Institute is committed to scientific rigor which strives to evade academic elitism of scholarship for the sake of scholarship but is rather meant to serve as the basis for concrete, precise but also bold and innovative analyses and visions of social transformation. ISSHS also offers accredited MA programs in gender studies, cultural studies and policy studies.

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SKOPJE



ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG  
SOUTHEAST EUROPE

## SCHOOL FOR POLITICS AND CRITIQUE 2015

The series of four political workshops under the frames of the School for Politics and Critique 2015 are conceptual flow from the activities of the School for Politics and Critique 2014 and they aim at enabling a space both for learning on strategies of enacting large coalitions and action within them, as well as to generate new theoretical knowledge on the political challenges of the current context. The School will provide a larger group of activists an opportunity to work with experienced political activists and theorists.

The increase in neoliberal policies on the one hand and the increase of the authoritarian practice of governments on the other, continuously produce social devastation, fear and political demobilization of social movements. The lack of strategies for outreach to different social groups by the social activists in order to forge a broad alliance of social actors which will enact strategies of action towards social justice, freedom and democracy, produce a fragmented space for change. We need to unite the progressive forces in action.

The lack of a more serious political confrontation to the current neoliberal consensus among the political factors requires the mobilization of a leftist discourse and wide social structures. There is a need to link sectors of labor with other citizen structures in order to organize a political resistance against the terrible social consequences in the areas of freedom, democracy and social justice. At the present moment a serious challenge towards the active political mobilization is the fear and disbelief of the wide popular masses on any political undertaking that would challenge the current governing mentality.

As a follow-up of the School for Politics and Critique 2014 which was focused on increasing the skills and knowledge of activists in Macedonia, the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje is organizing four (three day) workshops with members of various activist and political groups from Macedonia.

ALEKOS ALAVANOS

| March |

“West and East Inside Europe: the Greek Experiment”

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“Three Questions Difficult to be Answered on the Greek Crisis”

**Alexandros 'Alekos' Alavanos** is a Greek politician, former member of the Hellenic Parliament and the European Parliament. From 2004 until 2008 he was president of the Coalition of the Left of Movements and Ecology, commonly known as Synaspismos. He was parliamentary leader of the wider Coalition of the Radical Left (SYRIZA). At the moment he is the leader of the political movement “Plan B” which advocates exit from the Euro.

| June |

SVETLANA SLAPŠAK & FRANÇOIS LARUELLE

Svetlana Slapšak - “Suspicious Subversion: Revolutionary Ethics”

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François Laruelle - “Non-Standard Philosophy and Marxism.”

**Svetlana Slapšak** is retired Professor of Anthropology of the Ancient Worlds and Anthropology of Gender, Co-ordinator, at ISH, Institutum Studiorum Humanitatis, a postgraduate school in humanities in Ljubljana, since 1995, and a former Dean of ISH.

**François Laruelle** is a French philosopher, formerly of the Collège international de philosophie and the University of Paris X: Nanterre. He developed the concept of non-philosophy as a kind of non-standard philosophy rather than anti-philosophy or meta-philosophy. Laruelle’s non-Marxism is an attempt to rethink Marxism after the collapse of the communist states by asking the question “What is to be done with Marxism itself?” He proposes non-Marxism as a heretical science of Marxism that will investigate both its failures and possibilities to develop a new theory.

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All the political workshops will be facilitated and moderated by **IGOR JOVANOVSKI**, a professor of political sciences of the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje. He is a theoretician and an activist specializing in social movements, the new left, various (new) modes of political organization and critical theory.

**The School for Politics and Critique is supported by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Southeast Europe.**

| October |

JUAN LUIS SANCHEZ

“The Political Lessons of 15-M and Podemos”

Juan Luis Sanchez is a journalist specialized in digital and new media content. He co-founded Human Journalism and was its editor until January 2012. He has been a reporter in Morocco, Kosovo, the Sahara, Turkey and Spain. His coverage of the emergence of the 15-M movement in Spain has been published and referenced in Spanish and international media, including the New York Times or The Washington Post. He collaborates with La Sexta. He is one of the most insightful analysts and members of Podemos movement.

*The Indignados, or 15-M movement grew out of several anti-austerity movements as opposition to way the party elites handled the debt crisis, as well as the widespread corruption and inequality. The mass protests turned into a mass enactment of direct democracy. The squares were filled with grass root assemblies, called “circles” that called upon people to organize and share their vision for future. These assemblies are the grassroots basis for the new party Podemos that radically changed the political climate of the Spanish society.*

| November |

JACOPO OTTAVIANI

“Data-Driven Storytelling and Digital Cartography: Visualising Data for Advocacy.”

**Jacopo Ottaviani** is a journalist specialising on data driven investigation and cross-media storytelling. His works have been published on international media such as The Guardian, Al Jazeera International, Foreign Policy.

*Data journalism tools have been used to visualise the deaths in prisons, the tragic shipwrecks in the Mediterranean sea, early school leavers distribution and lack of maternity services. The lecture will illustrate case studies on how data-driven storytelling tools and open data can be used to advocate for rights and push for social change and provide some pivotal techniques that can be applied to most datasets to tell stories”*